

SpecialPLACES

FOR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS

WINTER 2012 VOLUME 20 NO. 4

Everything Old is New Again



Everything
old



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**WHAT DOES IT TAKE
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WESTPORT TOWN FARM
RENOVATION BRINGS
HISTORY INTO THE PRESENT

BY KATHARINE WROTH

A photograph showing a woman from behind, standing in a room with white walls and a window. She is looking out at a view of green trees and foliage. The lighting is soft, suggesting an indoor setting.

JENNIFER DUBOIS STANDS on the first floor of a Colonial-style farmhouse in the South Coast town of Westport, describing the renovation underway around her. A few feet away, a worker clad in white coveralls applies a swatch of light green paint to a plaster wall. His fellow crew members are busy sawing and sanding in other parts of the house, and the buoyant beat from a small radio dances through the rooms. Suddenly, a woman's voice cuts through the genial chaos: "Hello?"



© P.DAHM

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: The old farmhouse is getting a "green" facelift inside and out. The Youth Conservation Corps tends to the farm's community garden, which provides fresh produce to hunger-relief organizations. The Trustees have welcomed the public to the farm through programs and special events.



© P.DAHM



© J.BELLER

A LOCAL RESIDENT has dropped by with her sister and mother for a walk on the 40-acre Westport Town Farm property, which swoops from this roadside farmhouse and a small cluster of wood and granite outbuildings down to the East Branch of the Westport River. Drawn by the sounds emanating from the house, they ask if they can peek inside. Though the building will not be open to the public for several more weeks, Dubois – Director of Southeast Region Community Conservation for The Trustees – spends a few minutes discussing the project with them. She points out some of the unique features visible from the front entry, like a bowed interior wall and a set of black metal reproduction hinges that have just been forged and painted. Their questions answered, the women head out to enjoy the property's gentle one-mile walking trail.

"We get a lot of curious visitors, and a lot of people who come by to see how things

are progressing," Dubois says. The interest is understandable: For nearly 300 years, this site has been a staple of the Westport landscape. Originally built as a working farm in 1720, the house became the town "poor farm" in 1824, growing into a complex that housed residents who could not care for themselves due to poverty, physical or mental illness, or other reasons. After serving this role for more than 125 years, the farm was used as a rest home, then rented out as apartments by the town.

By the 1980s, the structure was suffering from decay and neglect, but the dedication of a small group of local residents helped it survive. The Trustees got involved in 2006, building on decades of their own work in the area by leasing the property, cleaning it up, and opening it to the public for the first time. Since then, they've launched programming that ranges from composting workshops to kayaking trips, as well as starting a community

garden with produce raised and harvested by local teens – The Trustees' Youth Conservation Corps – and then donated to area residents in need, honoring the tradition of the farm.

Now The Trustees and their longtime partner, the Westport Land Conservation Trust (WLCT), have undertaken an environmentally sustainable and historically sensitive renovation of the main building that will see it rehabilitated for use as meeting space and offices for the two organizations. (An adjoining ell will still be leased to a private tenant, and the outbuildings used for storage.) With a 99-year lease in place, the Town and The Trustees know this is a partnership built to last.

"This renovation project is terribly important," says Heli Meltsner, an architectural historian and author of the recently published *The Poorhouses of Massachusetts: A Cultural and Architectural History*. "Town farms are a visual representation of how communities



Peter Madsen and Betsy Gordon get a tour of the renovation from The Trustees' Jim Younger.



took care of their own, and Westport is an amazingly well-preserved example."

Meltsner says about 100 properties that once served as poor farms still stand across the state, which had a high of 230 such facilities in the late 1800s. Many of those that remain are at risk – as a multi-year controversy in Milton, which ended with the sale of 30 acres to a housing development company last year, vividly demonstrated. Intent on protecting a property that is, in Meltsner's words, a "ravishing riverside landscape," The Trustees worked with the local historical commission to ensure that the new plans honor the building's legacy. "We are being very respectful of its historical

its current size, and old stone walkways that had sunk into the shifting landscape over time. The latter were discovered by students from the Archaeology Department at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, which conducted a dig at the site in the spring.

Wherever possible, the renovation crew is restoring and reusing original materials, Younger says. They removed and rebuilt the front stairway, shored up the basement, and reshingled part of the exterior. New features such as an energy-recovery ventilation system and super-insulated attic will ensure that the building's indoor air quality is high even as its energy costs are low. The landscape

of the LEED-Gold Doyle Center in Leominster. "We took steps that anyone can take," such as weatherizing windows instead of replacing them, he says.

The organization held a public opening of the building in late October, with Trustees and WLCT staff shifting their operations to the new site by the end of the year. But back in early fall, with work still underway, Dubois was left to imagine how the rooms might look with desks and conference tables in place. One detail not left to the imagination was the way an upstairs window framed the expanse of rolling farmland, stone walls, and gleaming river below – a view, Dubois notes, that is the best one in the house.

"This is a unique project for us," says Dubois, who values the opportunity it has provided to work closely with the community, which has embraced it in many ways, from overwhelmingly supportive town votes, to an outpouring of volunteers at the community garden, to the increasing number of daily visitors. As important, "the restoration was made possible through a private fundraising effort lead by The Trustees and WLCT," says Dubois. She hopes more people will take time to discover the property's wonders. "This is truly a special place."

Katharine Wroth is a senior writer at Grist.org. Her work has appeared in Special Places and other publications.

We are being very respectful of its historical significance...[the house has] seen a real evolution of uses over time, and there's evidence of that in its bones. — JIM YOUNGER, DIRECTOR OF STRUCTURAL RESOURCES

significance," says Jim Younger, Director of Structural Resources and Technology, who is overseeing the restoration. "It's seen a real evolution of uses over time, and there's evidence of that in its bones."

Younger says the restoration – which is adhering to green-building principles that will make it a model of energy efficiency – has revealed some fascinating details, such as the original footprint of the house, which was half

is benefitting from the green features, too: a system for collecting rainwater from the farmhouse roof in an underground, 1,500-gallon cistern will provide water for the property's community gardens.

"The greenest building is one that's already built," says Younger, who has also managed green-leaning renovations for The Trustees at Appleton Farms in Ipswich and the Bullitt Reservation in Ashfield, as well as construction



The Town Farm has been revitalized as a community resource, complete with an annual harvest celebration attended by hundreds of people.

Your Old House



THINK TURNING YOUR OWN OLD HOUSE into a model of energy efficiency is out of the question? Think again. You don't need to do a top-to-bottom renovation to find energy — and money — savings in your home. You can start small, beginning with an energy audit. And, with special loan programs often available to help you implement audit recommendations, a more efficient house is within reach of many homeowners.

MASS SAVE offers homeowners a basement-to-roof assessment to identify areas where energy-efficiency improvements can be made. www.masssave.com

NEXT STEP LIVING provides a no-cost audit as well as recommendations and advice on deeper energy-efficiency improvements. www.nextsteplivinginc.com

WESTERN MASS SAVES, not to be confused with Mass Save, is a web-based program of Western Mass Electric (WMECO) that provides specific suggestions about cutting electricity use and costs. Members of The Trustees who are WMECO customers can set up a free personal account that tracks their energy use and lets them monitor it online. westernmasssaves.com/teams/ttor

Change Agent

BY DOUG FRASER

TO CHRIS KENNEDY, THE TRUSTEES' MARTHA'S VINEYARD SUPERINTENDENT, THE SCENE BEFORE HIM WAS NATURE WRIT LARGE. THE LARGE TREES AND BRUSH SLIDING OVER THE EDGE OF A BLUFF INTO THE WATER BELOW, THE TRAILING ROOT SYSTEMS AND THE THIN CAP OF SOD, WAS HIGH DRAMA, LIKE VIEWING A LAVA FLOW IN SLOW MOTION.

THE TRUSTEES own most of the area under siege – 200 acres that make up their Wasque Reservation on Chappaquiddick plus a mile of beach. The severe erosion has severely limited access for fishermen, beachgoers, and those driving off-road vehicles along the sandy trails.

"If you like change, you'll love Wasque," Kennedy said, pulling his pickup into what is still known as the Fishermen's Parking Lot. It was once popular with those who didn't have four-wheel drive vehicles to access the area's remote fishing spots. Until recently, fishermen walked 100 feet to a stairway that led down to a marshy area and along a boardwalk that ran another 150 yards out to the beach. It's all gone now, including half the distance back from the bluff to the parking lot, most of it taken in the past two years.

Some just couldn't bear to watch as the pace of erosion quickened on the southeast corner of the island and the Atlantic gobbled up hundreds of feet of beach and ate into a forest.

"I feel bad for people who come out here after being away for a couple of years," Kennedy said. "I can see it in their face: 'What happened? Am I in the wrong place?'"

Standing on what was once a sandy strand as wide as a football field – now a thin slip of sand littered with dead trees – Ebie Wood grieved, as if a family member had died, at the loss of the beach she'd known for more than 50 years.

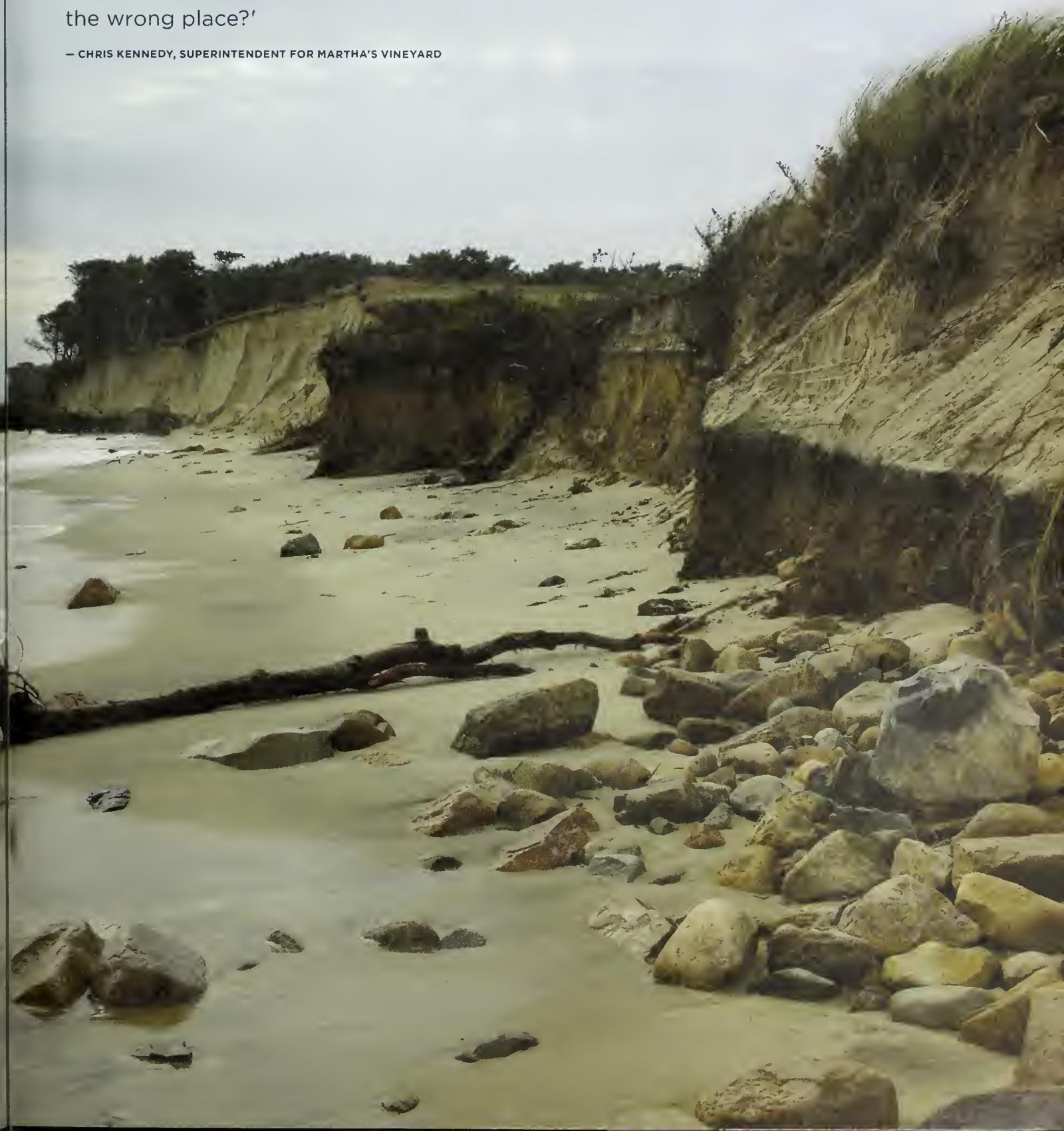
Wood has been coming to Wasque since 1959. She inherited one of the cottages in the historic campground in Oak Bluffs. It is her refuge. "This is the place you come to breathe," she said.

Ebie and her husband live in New York, and over the winter friends tried to prepare her for what she would see when she returned.



For people who come out here after being away for a couple of years, I can see it in their face: 'What happened? Am I in the wrong place?'

— CHRIS KENNEDY, SUPERINTENDENT FOR MARTHA'S VINEYARD





"I cried last year; I really cried this year," said Wood of her first viewing of the devastation.

It all began when a big ocean storm punched through Norton Point Beach back in 2007. That breach widened, then shifted toward the east. As it approached the Wasque shoreline, the opening narrowed and concentrated the tidal flow from Katama Bay into a swift running channel nearly 20 feet deep. The current scoured the shoreline, eroding the beach then the cliffs behind them, turning the once clear blue waters into a buff-colored river of silt and sand.

Trees and shrubs that have literally had the land pulled out from underneath them lie everywhere on the beach, some still sporting green leaves. Fishermen must not only watch out for trees in the surf, but collapsing cliff faces behind them. Off-road enthusiasts can no longer drive from the Edgartown side that runs along Norton Point Beach to Wasque. Even from the Chappaquiddick side, access is difficult because the beach is now narrow and choked with debris from the erosion, and dangerous currents caused The Trustees to close much of the Wasque and Norton Point beach areas to swimming.

Long sections of beach look post-tsunami. Kennedy tried using volunteers and even

earth-moving equipment to clear away the trees, shrubs, and thick tangles of phragmites roots and rhizomes on the east-facing beach. But the work proved tedious and displaced vegetation kept washing ashore, fouling the cleared areas.

Instead, Kennedy ended up roping off big areas of beach, keeping only the vehicle trail cleared.

On a beautiful summer morning, Phil Bibeau, from Jaffrey, New Hampshire, and Dave Grover of Florida drove onto the beach and set up beach chairs with their fishing rods beside them propped up in the sand.

Known as the banquet table of the Atlantic, Wasque is a popular destination for fishermen, located at the crossroads of two strong currents that run along the southern and eastern shores of the island, dragging along hapless baitfish. Where these currents converge, off Wasque Point, bigger fish like striped bass, bluefish and even sharks lie in wait as their prey gets delivered to them.

As they fished, Bibeau and Grover sat among the skeletal remains of trees big and small tipped on their sides. The water in front of them was an opaque brown, and waves were rolling what was once a 20-foot-tall cedar up onto the beach. "This is the worst it ever was,"

said Bibeau, who has been fishing at Wasque for 37 years, of the erosion.

If he wants to go to Wasque for early morning fishing, Phil Horton has to leave the night before and catch the last Chappaquiddick ferry, then stay overnight on the beach. As long as he is mindful of the tide and careful about the obstacles floating in the water, he can still fish.

"I think until the breach closes and the erosion slows down, we'll just deal with it," said Horton, a member of the Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association who has been fishing Wasque for 25 years.

Eventually, five years, maybe 15 years into the future, the breach will heal, Kennedy said. The signs of that are already apparent. A long sandbar stretches out from the western edge of the Norton Point break trailing eastward where it will one day rejoin the mainland at Wasque Point. "This is a process that has been repeated over and over again," said Kennedy. "It's nature."

Doug Fraser is the waterfront/environmental reporter for the Cape Cod Times. A version of the article originally appeared in the Times this summer.

Ebb & Flow

The transformation of Wasque over the past five years is dramatic, says Trustees Ecology Program Director Russ Hopping, but it's all part of a natural trend that began when the last glaciers retreated approximately 15,000 years ago. We asked Russ what the future holds for Wasque — and how climate change may impact this natural cycle.

Q. This isn't the first time that a breach has occurred at Norton Point — what has been the cycle in the past?

A. We've seen studies that show breaches going back as far as the 1700s, with the last breach occurring during the 1950s and 60s. That breach took 15 years to close. If we look at history, we do expect the breach to close, and that will then change the patterns of the currents, allowing the beach at Wasque to once again develop — sand that is being carried by the current or sitting offshore now will get deposited onto Wasque, building the beach back up. But it could be years before we see that begin to happen.

Q. So, if we just sit tight, eventually we'll get our beach back?

A. Yes. What's happening at Wasque is part of a dynamic natural cycle. But the potential impacts of climate change could take these natural processes and both heighten and accelerate them. As the oceans warm and sea level rises, scientists predict that storm surges from natural events like hurricanes and Nor'easters will have a greater impact, because they can penetrate further inland or higher up any existing barrier, such as a bluff or beach. This means that we will see places that are already vulnerable to erosion — such as Martha's Vineyard with its sandy soils — get smaller because the process of erosion will be greater.

Q. So, let's say the breach closes, but sea level rises. We'll see sand build back up at Wasque, but the overall beach itself could get smaller and smaller over time?

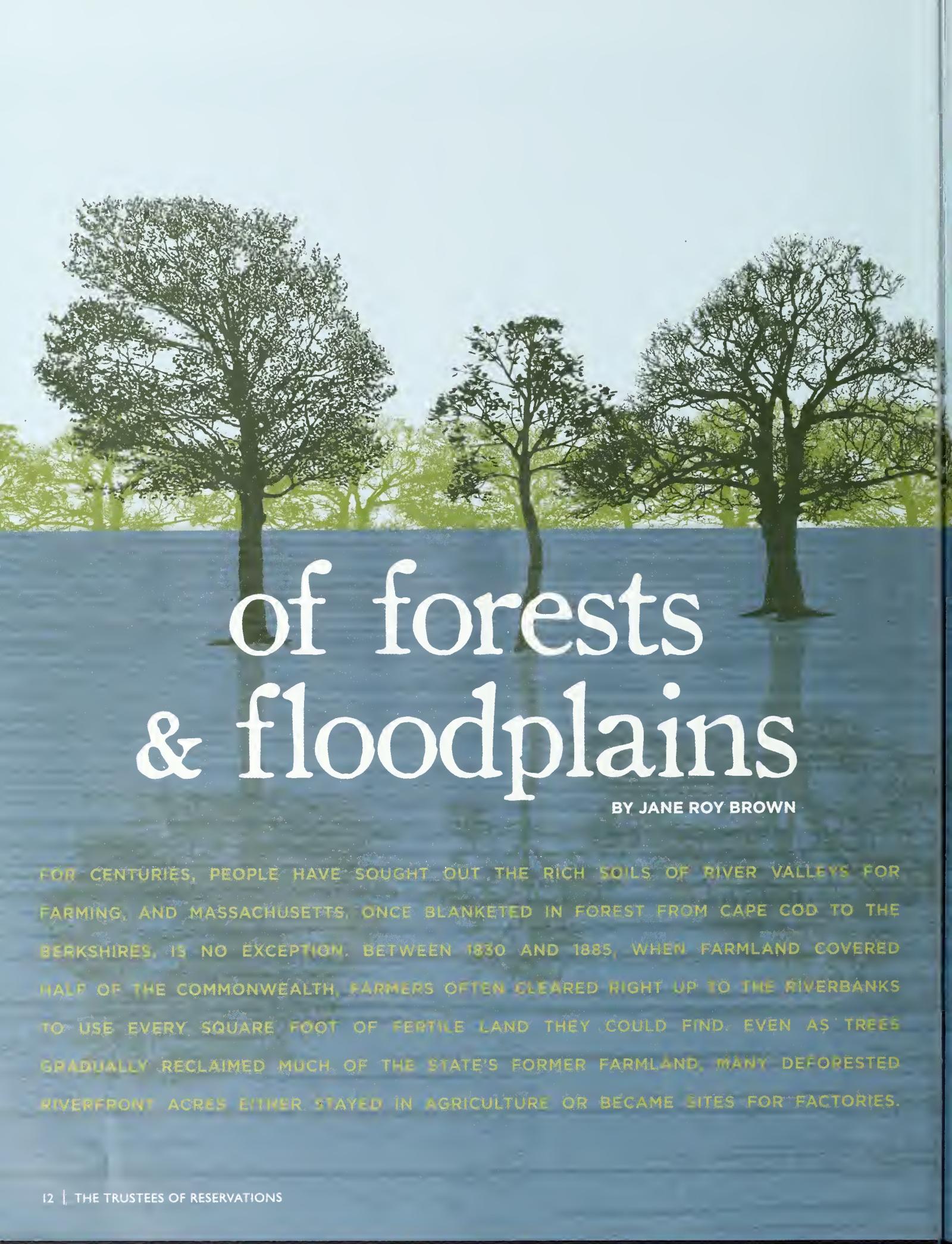
A. Sort of. Wasque has two land forms. The first is the sand that has been carried there by wind and currents from elsewhere. That makes up the sandy beach area. Then you have glacial material — literally sand and other particles that were deposited there 15,000 or so years ago, which form



the majority of Wasque and the rest of Chappaquiddick Island. This soil had never moved, until erosion, such as that created by storm waves, ate away at it, creating the dramatic cliffs we see today at Wasque. With rising sea levels and more intense storm surges — like what we saw from Hurricane Sandy in October — the base of these glacial cliffs are now being eaten away, causing them to collapse and erode. That land won't come back. When the breach closes, the beach will form once more in front of those eroded cliffs. But it will form from migrating sand, and the cycle of erosion, shrinkage, and rebuilding will continue and grow over time.

Q. Is there anything that we can do to mitigate the impact on Wasque?

A. This is the challenge of managing such a dynamic environment. The natural process of beach building is something we need to be mindful of, and we need to make sure we're not doing harm to that process. We are concerned that the terrestrial ecosystem will suffer, though. Wasque is an amazing example of a globally rare habitat, but even now parts of it are washing into the ocean. Ultimately, erosion will continue and could accelerate due to climate change, and the beach will wax and wane until we will lose the glacially deposited soils — and the plants and animals that depend on them — forever. Creating barriers such as rock walls that help prevent or slow erosion are not an option since these measures are not only cost prohibitive, they typically result in shifting erosion patterns elsewhere and interfere with natural beach building. So, 50 or 100 years from now, we'll be looking at an even more dramatic transformation of Wasque than what we're seeing today.

A photograph of a river scene. In the foreground, there's a body of water with ripples. Behind it, several large, mature trees stand on the bank, their reflections clearly visible in the water. The sky above is overcast.

of forests & floodplains

BY JANE ROY BROWN

FOR CENTURIES, PEOPLE HAVE SOUGHT OUT THE RICH SOILS OF RIVER VALLEYS FOR FARMING, AND MASSACHUSETTS, ONCE BLANKETED IN FOREST FROM CAPE COD TO THE BERKSHIRES, IS NO EXCEPTION. BETWEEN 1830 AND 1885, WHEN FARMLAND COVERED HALF OF THE COMMONWEALTH, FARMERS OFTEN CLEARED RIGHT UP TO THE RIVERBANKS TO USE EVERY SQUARE FOOT OF FERTILE LAND THEY COULD FIND. EVEN AS TREES GRADUALLY RECLAIMED MUCH OF THE STATE'S FORMER FARMLAND, MANY DEFORESTED RIVERFRONT ACRES EITHER STAYED IN AGRICULTURE OR BECAME SITES FOR FACTORIES.



BUT THE LOSS OF THESE FLOODPLAIN FORESTS IS A PROBLEM, says Julie Richburg, Western Region Ecologist for The Trustees: "The uniquely adapted trees that grow in these forests act as buffers, absorbing and slowing the water that spills over the banks, allowing silt and sediment to settle out of floodwaters." The absence of these forests, especially along the Connecticut and Housatonic rivers, was among the causes of the destruction of riverbanks in Vermont and western Massachusetts during Hurricane Irene last fall, Richburg explains. The canopies of floodplain forest plants – red and silver maple, black willow, American elm, and cottonwood trees – shade a sparse shrub layer and a lush groundcover of ostrich fern, wood nettle, and other non-woody plants, which all share the rare ability to survive while submerged and also when the soil dries out.

Flood control, and the habitat for the rare species of plants and animals that these forest communities provide, are two of the reasons that Richburg is leading a restoration of floodplain forests at The Trustees' Land of Providence and Bartholomew's Cobble reservations in western Massachusetts. Beyond the ecological benefits, though, says Richburg, the multi-year project has also provided the chance to involve the public in this critical work as volunteers. In addition, The Trustees' youngest staff members, the Holyoke Youth Conservation Corps, have been instrumental in the actual on-the-ground work.

At Land of Providence in Holyoke, which extends a half mile alongside the Connecticut River, the goal is to widen the existing stand of forest by about 100 feet, on a shelf of soil called a terrace. The slightly higher elevation of the terrace above the river allows some upland trees – sugar maple, red oak, and hickory, for example – to grow alongside the elm, pin oak, and silver maple typical of the wetter lowlands.

The project began two years ago, when "30 volunteers planted 113 trees," says Richburg. "Today, the trees are doing really well." This year, The Trustees continued their work, planting 25 blight-resistant American elms, donated by The Nature Conservancy, and 10 silver maples collected from Bartholomew's Cobble in 2011.

The Cobble, in Sheffield, borders the Housatonic River. Here Richburg aims to transform 10 acres of hayfield back to the original floodplain forest, which will eventually require about 1,500 trees. "That's a lot of trees!" she says, adding that more than 40 acres of grasslands remain at the reservation. To mimic the existing floodplain forest at Bartholomew's Cobble, Richburg decided to replant silver maple, along with a smaller number of other species such as sycamore and cottonwood. The effort is funded in part by the Housatonic River Natural Resource Damage and Assessment Program, which is working to clean up and restore the entire river after decades of pollution from PCBs, which were released into its waters in Pittsfield by General Electric from the 1930s to 1970s.

In June, volunteers from The Trustees and Project Native, a nonprofit native plant farm, nursery, and wildlife sanctuary in Housatonic, helped plant 25 elms, also donated by The Nature Conservancy, at the Cobble. "A regular team of volunteers comes weekly in the spring and summer to help on projects across the whole property, and some of them have worked on the floodplain forest," says Kate Preissler, Trustees Engagement Manager for the Berkshires, Pioneer Valley, and Central Massachusetts. "They find the floodplain project really exciting."

"It's really a unique opportunity for our volunteers," says Richburg. "They get to start a great project like this and follow it through the years. Their efforts are visible right after they plant these trees, but then they'll

the Youth Corps has cleared invasive plants, helped care for the seedlings in the greenhouse, watered newly planted trees, posted informational signs, and other basic tasks needed for the forest restoration to succeed.

— KATE PREISSLER, ENGAGEMENT MANAGER FOR THE BERKSHIRES, PIONEER VALLEY, AND CENTRAL REGIONS



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The Holyoke Youth Conservation Corps has played an integral role in the restoration project. Volunteers help plant trees at Bartholomew's Cobble. Silver maple seedlings harvested from the banks of the Housatonic await planting. Conservation Ranger Rene Wendell secures the young trees at the Cobble.



get to watch the trees grow. They'll see how they have helped to create habitat, and then get to see it change over time."

The project has also served as an outdoor classroom for The Trustees' Holyoke Youth Conservation Corps. The team of five to six teens, who range in age from 15 to 17, work during the summer on stewardship projects at Trustees' reservations across the region – Dinosaur Footprints, Land of Providence, and Little Tom Mountain – as well as at Mt. Tom State Park and several other sites around the

city. "At Land of Providence, the Youth Corps has cleared invasive plants, watered newly planted trees, posted informational signs, and other basic tasks needed for the forest restoration to succeed," Preissler says.

They've also been great partners with Richburg in her work back at the Cobble, helping to pot and care for newly planted silver maple seedlings plucked from the banks of the Housatonic. Hundreds of these seedlings sprout along a Housatonic riverbend, but they get scoured by ice every winter. "These little

plants cannot survive the scouring, so in 2011 we scooped out about 300 of them and trucked them back to Land of Providence to spend the winter at The Trustees' greenhouse there," she says. "They're now two and three feet tall. In 2013 we will take them back to the Cobble and plant them."

When the Youth Corps returns to plant the young silver maples in the Cobble's hayfield next year, the chances of the trees surviving are excellent, Richburg says. "Silver maples can survive in a wide range of conditions, but



replanting them where they have evolved in the unique conditions of that particular site is the best possible situation. It's like they not only speak the language of that land, but the local dialect too."

It will be a few years before Richburg gets to see the full impact of her work, as the trees take root and grow. "We're really looking at more than 20 years before the trees start to close the canopy," she says. But other benefits, like restored habitat for plants and animals, will be achieved more quickly. With several

other restoration projects currently underway along the Connecticut and Housatonic rivers, including by Project Native and The Nature Conservancy, The Trustees' efforts have the potential to have a significant impact, especially as forecasters predict bigger and more severe storms like Irene in the years to come.

Jane Roy Brown is a member of The Trustees who lives in the Highlands.



THE SEMPER VIRENS SOCIETY

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...to consider making The Trustees a part of your estate planning. There are many easy ways to make gifts that contribute to our conservation work and protect your long-term financial security. If you have already named us as a beneficiary, please let us know so we can honor your generosity through The Semper Virens Society. We welcome the opportunity to talk with you. Please visit www.thetrustees.org/svs

Please contact me about a gift annuity or other gifts that provide income to me or another beneficiary.

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DECEMBER 2012 – FEBRUARY 2013
Things to Do

Visit therustees.org for details on all of our events and volunteer opportunities, and to sign up for our monthly e-mail. Volunteer opportunities are identified with: 

BERKSHIRES

Hot Chocolate Saturdays

Saturdays, through Mid-March | 9AM–4:30PM
 Bartholomew's Cobble, Sheffield 413.229.8600
 Members & Nonmembers: FREE with admission.

Frosty Snowshoe, Toasty Yoga: Ashintully Sundays, January 6, February 17 | 12:30–3:30PM
 Ashintully Gardens, Tyringham 413.532.1631 x10
 Members & Nonmembers: \$20. Snowshoe rentals available: Members: \$5. Nonmembers: \$10.

Young Adult Ski Patrol 
 Winter Sundays, starting January 6 | 1PM
 Notchview, Windsor 413.684.0148
 Members & Nonmembers: FREE.

Winter Trails Day
 Saturday, January 12 | 10AM–3PM
 Notchview, Windsor 413.684.0148
 Members & Nonmembers: FREE hike & lessons; half-price trail fees. Snowshoes with trail passes will be available free for two-hour periods for people to try; quantities of snowshoes are limited.

Moonlight Skiing

Friday, January 25; Saturdays, February 23, March 23 | 7–9PM
 Notchview, Windsor 413.684.0148
 Members: FREE. Nonmembers: \$10.

Winter Wildlife Day

at Field Farm: Guided Trek
 Sunday, February 3 | 1–3PM
 Field Farm, Williamstown 413.532.1631 x20
 Members & Nonmembers: FREE.
 Donations accepted.

Berkshire Trails Nordic Ski Race Series

Dates to be Announced | 9AM
 Notchview, Windsor 413.684.0148
 Trustees or Berkshire Trail Members: \$10. Dual Members: FREE. Nonmembers: \$20.

Nordic Ski Lessons for All Ages

Beginners: Winter Saturdays | 1–2PM
 Intermediates: Winter Sundays | 1–2PM
 Notchview, Windsor 413.684.0148
 Group lesson: Members: \$20. Nonmembers: \$25.
 Individual lesson (by appointment): Members: \$65. Nonmembers: \$75.

Bill Koch Youth Ski League

Winter Sundays | 2–4PM
 Notchview, Windsor 413.684.0148
 Please call for information.

WEEKEND SNOWSHOE TREKS

Get outside and stretch your legs and lungs with us this winter!

Saturdays, December 29, January 19, February 9, March 2 | 10AM–12NOON
 Bartholomew's Cobble, Sheffield 413.229.8600
 Members: Adult \$5; Child FREE.
 Nonmembers: Adult \$10; Child \$3.
 Snowshoe rentals available: Members: \$5.
 Nonmembers: \$10

Saturday, January 19 | 10AM–12NOON
 Mountain Meadow Preserve, Benedict Road, Pownal, VT 413.532.1631 x20
 Members & Nonmembers: FREE trek.
 Bring your own snowshoes.

Sundays, January 20, February 17, March 17 | 10AM–12NOON
 Little Tom Mountain, Holyoke 413.532.1631 x10
 Members & Nonmembers: FREE trek.
 Snowshoe rentals available: Members: \$5.
 Nonmembers: \$10.

Sunday, February 24 | 10AM–12NOON
 Bullitt Reservation, Ashfield 413.532.1631 x10
 Members & Nonmembers: FREE trek.
 Snowshoe rentals available: Members: \$5.
 Nonmembers: \$10.



SKI & SNOWSHOE AT NOTCHVIEW IN WINDSOR! 2012–2013 WINTER RATES

WEEKDAYS

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WEEKENDS

Adult \$6; Child (6–12) \$3; or purchase Weekend Ski Pass Sticker at Notchview for \$45 and enjoy unlimited weekend access

Members (Individual, Family, & Contributing Levels)

Full Day: Adult \$12; Child (6–12) \$6

Full Day: Adult \$12; Child (6–12) \$6

Nonmembers

Call 413.684.0148 for discounted rates.

Scheduled groups of 10+

PIONEER VALLEY

Film Screening: Work of 1000
Thursday, January 10 | 7PM
Wistariahurst Museum, Holyoke 413.532.1631 x10
Visit www.thetrustees.org for details.

Frosty Snowshoe,
Toasty Yoga: Mount Warner
Sundays, January 27, March 10 | 12:30–3:30PM
Mount Warner and Ananda Studio, Hadley
413.532.1631 x10
Members & Nonmembers: \$20. Snowshoe rentals available: Members: \$5. Nonmembers: \$10.

CENTRAL REGION

Winter Campout at Tully
Saturday & Sunday, February 9 & 10
Tully Lake Campground, Royalston 978.248.9455
Members: \$15/person. Nonmembers: \$20/person.

2013 Conference & Networking Event!

Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference
Saturday, March 23
Worcester Technical High School, Worcester
978.840.4446

This year's theme is 'What is a Green Future Worth: From Rural Landscapes to City Parks.' Co-convened by The Trustees of Reservations and the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition. Starting in mid-January, pre-register at www.massconservation.org.



GREATER BOSTON

Including Boston Natural Areas Network (BNAN)
www.bostonnatural.org

Boxing Day Sale with British Goods & Foodstuffs
Wednesday, December 26 | 12NOON–5PM
Old Manse, Concord 978.369.3909
Members & Nonmembers: FREE.

Snowflakes: Winter Family Outings
Five Tuesdays, January 8, 15, 22, 29;
February 5 | 10–11AM
Weir River Farm, Hingham 781.740.7233
Five sessions: Members \$48. Nonmembers: \$60.

Ecosplorations at Weir River Farm:
Winter Edition
Five Wednesdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30; February 6
3:30–5PM
Weir River Farm, Hingham 781.740.7233
Five sessions: Members \$48. Nonmembers: \$60.

Snowshoe Clinic at Bird Park
Saturdays, January 19, February 16 | 10AM–12NOON
Francis William Bird Park, East Walpole
508.668.6136
Members & Nonmembers: FREE.

Cedariver Winter Festival
Saturday, February 9 | 9AM–2PM
Cedariver, Millis 508.785.0339
Members & Nonmembers: FREE.

Romance at the Manse
Sunday, February 10 | 1PM & 3PM
Old Manse, Concord 978.369.3909
Members: \$8. Nonmembers: \$12.

The Irish in Concord
Saturday & Sunday, March 16 & 17 | 2PM
Old Manse, Concord 978.369.3909
Members: FREE. Nonmembers: \$12.

38th Annual Gardeners Gathering
Date in March to be announced.
Boston Natural Areas Network 617.542.7696
Visit www.bostonnatural.org for details.



February Vacation: Exploring Farms & Forests

Vacation = Exploration! With hikes, games, and plenty of time with our farm animals, your child's vacation will be chock full of fun.

Weir River Farm, Hingham 781.740.7233
Members: \$85. Nonmembers: \$108.

Ages 4–6:
Tuesday–Thursday, February 19–21
9AM–12NOON

Ages 7–10:
Tuesday–Thursday, February 19–21
1–4PM

NORTHEAST REGION

CAPE ANN
Essex, Gloucester, Manchester-by-the-Sea
Marblehead & Rockport
978.281.8400, www.thetrustees.org/capeann,
capeann@ttor.org

Discovery Center at Ravenswood Park
481 Western Avenue, Gloucester
Weekends & Holiday Mondays | 10AM–3PM
Hands-on activities, a Discovery Desk, and an Investigation Station await! Borrow a Discovery Detective Pack and explore the park. Group tours/programs available by request.

Snowshoe Ravenswood:
New Snowshoe Rental Program!
Saturdays & Sundays, through March 15
Ravenswood Park, Gloucester 978.281.8400
Members: \$10. Nonmembers: \$15. Adult & child sizes. Family package available.

Winter Birding Basics at Halibut Point
Third Sundays, January 20, February 17,
March 17 | 8–10AM
Halibut Point Reservation, Rockport
978.281.8400
Members & Nonmembers: FREE. Parking FREE
for members (display card on dashboard).

Creature Features:
Live Animal Presentations
Fourth Saturdays, January 26, February 23,
March 23 | 5–7PM
Ravenswood Park, Gloucester 978.281.8400
Members: Adult \$8; Child FREE. Nonmembers:
Adult \$10; Child FREE.



Maple Sugaring

Head to our new sugar shack to experience the sights and smells of this historic New England tradition. Learn how maple syrup is made by volunteering on one of our sugaring crews – or just stop in to see it all at a glance.

Appleton Farms, Ipswich & Hamilton
978.356.5728 x18

Saturdays at the Sugar Shack
Saturdays, February 23, March 2 | 11–3PM

Maple Sugaring Crew
Tuesday–Friday, February 19–22 | 10–2PM
Ages 13 & up

Afterschool Sugaring Crew
Mondays & Wednesdays, February 25, 27;
March 4, 6 | 3:30–5:30PM
Tuesdays & Thursdays, February 26, 28;
March 5, 7 | 3:30–5:30PM
Ages 13 & up.

Members & Nonmembers: FREE Donations accepted (for Saturdays at the Sugar Shack). Visit www.thetrustees.org to sign up to volunteer.

Cross-Country Ski Ravenswood's Carriage Paths
Saturday, February 9 | 1–3PM
Ravenswood Park, Gloucester 978.281.8400
Members: \$5. Nonmembers: \$10. Does not include snowshoe rental (see page 19).

Snowflake Shapes & Science
Thursday, February 21 | 1–3PM
Ravenswood Park, Gloucester 978.281.8400
Members: Adult \$5; Child FREE. Nonmembers: Adult \$8; Child FREE.

Hermit's Tales on the Trails: Mason A. Walton's Ravenswood Revealed
Friday, February 22 | 1–3PM
Ravenswood Park, Gloucester 978.281.8400
Members: Adult \$5; Child FREE. Nonmembers: Adult \$8; Child FREE.

Ice Age Trail Hike through Ravenswood
Sunday, March 10 | 1–3PM
Ravenswood Park, Gloucester 978.281.8400
Members: FREE. Nonmembers: \$5.

APPLETON FARMS
Ipswich & Hamilton

Visit www.thetrustees.org to register.
978.356.5728 x18

Old House Visitor Center
Saturdays & Sundays | 11AM–3PM
Stop by for all the information you need to enjoy the farm. Visit the Appleton family museum room and library, a farm-based education classroom with seasonal displays, and a state-of-the art kitchen where farm-to-fork workshops are held.

Cross-Country Ski Tours
Saturdays, January 12, 26; February 2, 9
9AM–12PM
Members: \$10. Nonmembers: \$15.
Bring your own skis.

Learn to Make Warming Winter Soups
Saturday, January 19 | 3–6PM
Members: \$30. Nonmembers: \$35.

New England Sled Dog Races
Saturday & Sunday, January 19 & 20
Visit newenglandsleddograces.com for details.

Basic Bread Making
Saturday, February 9 | 3–7PM
Members: \$30. Nonmembers: \$35.

An Evening of Desserts
Wednesday, February 13 | 5:30–8PM
Members: \$35/person; \$60/two people.
Nonmembers: \$40/person; \$70/two people.

SOUTHEAST

508.636.4693 x13, kheard@totor.org

Cross-Country Skiing
Selected Saturdays, January & February | 10AM
Westport Town Farm, Westport
Members & Nonmembers: FREE.
Visit www.thetrustees.org for details. Please call to register. Bring your own skis.

Winter Wonderland Walk
Saturday, January 12 | 10AM
Watuppa Reservation Headquarters, Fall River
Members & Nonmembers: FREE.

Beyond the Barways
Friday, January 25 | 1–3PM
1100 Main Road, Westport
Members: FREE. Nonmembers: \$5.

Lyman Reserve Bird Walk
Saturday, January 26 | 7AM
Lyman Reserve, Buzzards Bay
Members & Nonmembers: FREE.

Animal Tracking
Saturday, January 26 | 9AM
Freetown/Fall River State Forest HQ,
Slab Bridge Road, Assonet
Members & Nonmembers: FREE.

Nest Box Building
Saturday, March 2 | 1–3PM
Watuppa Reservation Headquarters, Fall River
Members & Nonmembers: FREE.



Super Bowl Long Walk

Join us for our annual pre-Super Bowl hike from the Slocum's River to the Westport River – then wrap things up with an optional tasting at Westport River Winery.

Sunday, February 3 | 12NOON–3PM
Slocum's River Reserve, Dartmouth
508.636.4693 x13
Please pre-register. Members & Nonmembers: FREE. Donations accepted. Wine tasting available for an additional fee.

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Bluebird Monitor Training

Saturday, March 9 | 1–3PM

Westport Town Farm, Westport

Members & Nonmembers: FREE.

Getting a Jump on Spring Greenhouse Workshop

Sunday, March 10 | 10AM–12NOON

Cornell Farm, Dartmouth

Members: FREE. Nonmembers: \$10.

Salamander Soirée

Late March/early April, depending on weather.

7:30PM

Freetown/Fall River State Forest HQ,

Slab Bridge Road, Assonet

Members & Nonmembers: FREE.

CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS

MARThA'S VINEYARD

CAPE POGE WILDLIFE REFUGE, LONG POINT WILDLIFE REFUGE, MYTOI, MENEMSHA HILLS, NORTON POINT, WASQUE

Cape Poge Sleigh Rides

Saturday & Sunday, December 29 & 30 | 11AM

Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge, Chappaquiddick

508.627.3599

Members: Adult \$20; Child (age 15 & under) \$12.

Nonmembers: Adult \$25; Child (age 15 & under) \$12.



Plan Your Early Spring Getaway

Escape to the mountains or the sea with a stay at one of our elegant inns. Get active, enjoy the pleasures of art galleries and antique stores, or simply relax and enjoy the view.

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ON THE CRANE ESTATE

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tel 413.458.3135 • guesthouseatfieldfarm.org

All proceeds from your stay benefit our conservation work at Field Farm and the Crane Estate.



Learn something new and enjoy your favorite Trustees reservation at the same time on these special REI Outdoor School programs. For more information and to register, visit www.thetrustees.org/REI.

Introduction to Snowshoeing

REI Members: \$70. Nonmembers: \$90.

Saturdays, January 5, February 9,

March 2 | 9AM–3PM

Appleton Farms, Ipswich & Hamilton

Saturdays, January 26;

February 2, 23 | 9AM–3PM

Rocky Woods, Medfield

Introduction to GPS Navigation Class

REI Members: \$60. Nonmembers: \$80.

Saturday, January 19 | 9AM–3PM

Rocky Woods, Medfield

Saturday, March 9 | 9AM–3PM

Whitney & Thayer Woods, Hingham

Meet at Turkey Hill parking area.

Introduction to Map and Compass Class

REI Members: \$60. Nonmembers: \$80.

Saturdays, January 19, February 16,

March 30 | 9AM–3PM

Rocky Woods, Medfield

Winter Landscape Photography

REI Members: \$55. Nonmembers: \$75.

Saturday, January 5 | 9AM–1PM

World's End, Hingham

Saturday, March 2 | 9AM–1PM

Appleton Farms, Ipswich & Hamilton

Introduction to Winter Camping Class

REI Members: \$45. Nonmembers: \$65.

Saturdays, January 26, February 16

10AM–2PM

Rocky Woods, Medfield

Essential Camping Skills

REI Members: \$40. Nonmembers: \$60.

Saturday, March 16 | 9AM–3PM

Rocky Woods, Medfield

Introduction to Trail Running

REI Members: \$20. Nonmembers: \$40.

Saturday, March 30 | 9–10AM

Rocky Woods, Medfield

SAVE 10%

A REI OUTDOOR SCHOOL CLASS OR OUTING OFFERED IN OUR MASSACHUSETTS STORES.

Join us to learn more about:

mountain biking, GPS navigation, road cycling, rock climbing, running and more.

Offer valid until 12/31/13. Offer valid toward payment of one REI Outdoor School class or outing that takes place prior to Jan. 30, 2014. Offer not valid on prior purchases. Offer only redeemable at REI stores in Massachusetts. Not redeemable online. Offer is nontransferable and is not redeemable for cash, merchandise or gift cards. Limit one coupon per customer.

Got an hour?

All of our volunteer gigs are listed online! Browse today at thetrustees.org/volunteer or a learning (and giving) opportunity near you.



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Together with our neighbors, we protect the distinct character of our communities and inspire a commitment to special places. Our passion is to share with everyone the irreplaceable natural and cultural treasures we care for.

Molly Makes (Moose) Tracks

What's a woman who earned her Master's degree in biological and environmental engineering from Cornell University doing plowing fields? As the new Farm Manager, Molly DellaRoman is making major tracks at The Trustees' newest CSA on the block: Moose Hill Farm in Sharon. Molly learned her farm smarts at our Powisset Farm CSA in Dover and at the Natick Community Organic Farm, among other gigs — and is thrilled to bring farming back to the historic Moose Hill farmstead: "It's important for people to know where their food comes from, and folks feel good being a part of a farm."

Visit us (or sign up for a share) here:
www.thetrustees.org/moosehillfarm



www.thetrustees.org